

East Bay. Over the years, José has served the residents of the 9th Congressional District in a number of different roles, and his professional expertise is supplemented by his deep commitment to building and maintaining the spirit of community.

José came to the Spanish Speaking Citizens' Foundation in 1985. Under his leadership, the SSCF evolved into an organization that facilitates inclusiveness by reducing barriers to economic opportunity, healthcare and education for Latinos in our community. José broadened the scope and vision of the SSCF to empower the individual and the community to improve the quality of life, while enriching the cultural heritage of Latinos. By working with other agencies, he has not only expanded the SSCF's network of contacts, but also worked to further the organization's services. José's leadership has been crucial here in Oakland, and has made education, social services and healthcare vastly more available and accessible to all members of our community.

In addition to his stellar work leading the SSCF, José has been and continues to be heavily involved in a number of other boards and organizations here in the Bay Area and elsewhere. He has served the community through his involvement with organizations such as the Oakland Community Organizations (OCO); Educational Coalition of Hispanic Organizations (ECHO); Latinos for Affirmative Action; and the Spanish Speaking Unity Council.

Furthermore, José has been recognized for his exceptional service with numerous awards, such as the Marcus Foster Alumni Award; a Personnel Administration Certificate from California State University, East Bay; and the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Professional Community Service Award.

Today the friends, family and colleagues of José Arredondo have come together to celebrate not only his retirement, but also his legacy of service and his permanent and positive impact on our community. On this very special day, I join all of them in thanking and saluting José for his profound contributions to California's 9th Congressional District, our country and our world.

HONORING JEREMY RABINOVITZ

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 2007

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of my California district staff. They would like to honor Jeremy Rabinovitz as he prepares to go to the "dark side."

For the past 10 years Jeremy has led a variety of personalities with a variety of interests. He was able to take a group of passionate, idealistic former volunteers from a Congressional campaign, who in 1996 did what seemed like the impossible, won a Democratic seat in a district that had been held by a Republican for almost 50 years, and turned them into a functioning Congressional district staff.

Not all of the district staff has had the pleasure to be entertained by his top "10 things that a chief of staff doesn't want to hear from his Member of Congress." Not all of the district staff has had the opportunity to experience

one of his occasional visits to the district. Nor has the district staff had the opportunity, during the Special Election, to be serenaded at 5 a.m. on Election Day by his rendition of "Sunrise, Sunset." Neither have very many staff experienced the sight of Jeremy walking a predominately Spanish speaking precinct with a 3 x 5 card that said, "A votado hoy?"

Not only did JR lead a variety of personalities, he was quite adept at impersonating a lot of leaders—religious leaders. He had an uncanny ability to invoke the Lutheran minister, the African American preacher and the Jewish rabbi. Had he stayed around a few more years, he no doubt would have mastered the Muslim imam, or become an enlightened Buddhist. Jeremy has indeed enlightened us in many ways.

There are far too many comments that staff wanted to include in this honorable document. The one sentiment, not to be confused with sediment, both of which this district has much of, was that every district staff member appreciated the confidence he had in them.

Madam Speaker, the time has come for all of us, the Capps Family of the past and present, to send our good wishes and our indescribable affection, for this remarkable man who was our "Chief of Staff." Shalom and mazel tov!

CELEBRATING THE NATURALIZATION OF BERENDINA R.H. (DIET) EMAN

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 2007

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Ms. Berendina R.H. (Diet) Eman, who this morning became one of the newest citizens of our United States of America.

Ms. Eman is a native of The Netherlands, but has been a lawful, permanent resident of the United States in Grand Rapids, Michigan, for more than 4 decades. Ms. Eman deserves special recognition because during World War II, she was a member of the Dutch Underground Resistance to the Nazi occupiers of The Netherlands. As a young woman, Diet bravely and courageously saved the lives of countless Jewish Dutch citizens, helped numerous Allied soldiers escape from Axis forces and ultimately was imprisoned in the Vught concentration camp for her activities.

For these many acts of bravery, Ms. Eman was recognized immediately after the war by Gen. Dwight David Eisenhower, then the Supreme Allied Commander in Europe. She received a certificate signed by General Eisenhower expressing "the gratitude and appreciation of the American people for gallant service in assisting the escape of Allied soldiers from the enemy."

Years later, Diet was recognized by the Government of The Netherlands for her acts and also received a letter of commendation from President Ronald Reagan in 1982. In that letter, President Reagan noted that she "helped write one of the great chapters in the annals of bravery," adding, "In risking your safety to adhere to a higher law of decency and morality, you have set a high and fearless standard for all those who oppose totalitarianism."

She is now nearly 87 years old, and I am humbled by her excitement to become a U.S. Citizen after first coming to our country on December 31, 1960. This morning at 10 a.m., she was sworn in as a citizen by the Hon. Robert Holmes Bell in a private oath ceremony in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Although I was unable to attend the ceremony due to our duties here in Washington, I hope the members of this House of Representatives will join me in thanking Ms. Eman for her incredible acts of bravery and congratulating her upon becoming a citizen of our country.

HONORING CHET AND SYLVIA MORGAN

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 2007

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and honor Chet and Sylvia Morgan, of Vernon, Connecticut. The Morgans recently celebrated their golden wedding anniversary at the Rockville Elks Carriage House in Rockville, Connecticut.

On January 26th, 1957, Chet and Sylvia married at St. Bridget Church in Manchester, Connecticut. Fifty years later, Chet and Sylvia are still happily married, recently renewing their wedding vows at St. Joseph Church in Rockville.

Chet and Sylvia are the proud parents of three, grandparents of eight, and great-grandparents of four. One of their grandsons, Kody, is a Connecticut National Guardsman currently serving in Iraq. I know that Chet and Sylvia are especially proud of his service to our country.

On behalf of my hometown of Vernon and Connecticut's Second Congressional District, I congratulate the Morgans and wish them all the best in the years to come.

VIOLA DELEON MUNOZ

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 2007

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, it is with deep affection that I tribute to the life of Viola DeLeon Munoz, long time San Bernardino community political leader and dear friend, better known by those who loved her as Vi.

Vi passed away in her Yucaipa home amongst the comfort of her family at the age of 75 on February 6, 2007.

She was born on June 22, 1931 in Houston, Texas, but called the Inland Empire home for most of her life.

Vi was a dedicated public servant. She devoted herself to advancing her community, fighting injustice, and engaging herself politically by supporting Democratic and Latino candidates.

I still remember meeting with her, the day her and her husband Jess developed the Latino Chicano Democratic Club.

Vi's involvement with Democratic clubs, voter registration and her passion for improving the lives of Latinos in the Inland Empire are just a few areas in which she inspired those of us who know her.